

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for providing lateral separation between two adjacent strings of [[tubulars]] tubular assemblies suspended from an offshore drilling rig having a working area suspended above the surface of a body of water, comprising:

a heavy-duty cart from which [[tubulars]] a first tubular assembly can be suspended through a moonpool area, said first tubular assembly extending through said moonpool into said body of water; and

[[rails]] a rail assembly capable of carrying said heavy-duty cart;

wherein [[movement of]] said cart can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hung from said cart and a string of tubulars in use in a drilling rig may translate along said rail assembly to move said first tubular assembly away from a primary load path so that a second tubular assembly may be advanced into the body of water along said primary load path.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein said cart has an opening through one side through which [[tubulars]] marine riser pipe can be inserted.

3. (Original) The cart of Claim 1, wherein said cart can carry a load of greater than 100 metric tons.

4. (Currently Amended) The cart of Claim 1, wherein said cart comprising a substantially rectangular base having an opening therethrough and wherein a side of said cart contains a passageway through which [[tubulars]] marine riser pipe can be inserted into said opening.

5. (Currently Amended) An offshore drilling structure comprising:

a working area suspended above the surface of a body of water, said working area comprising a first deck having means for conducting drilling activities along a primary load path and a second deck positioned below said first deck, said second deck having an open moonpool area through which tubular assemblies may be extended from the first deck into said body of water;

a deck having a moonpool through which drilling can take place

a pair of rails positioned on opposing sides that traverse at least a portion of said moonpool area; and

a cart, moveable on said rails, and operative for suspending a first tubular assembly over said moonpool area, said first tubular assembly comprising a blow-out protector (BOP) attached to a string of marine riser pipe from which tubulars can be suspended;

wherein movement of said cart can provide lateral separation between a string of tubulars hung from said cart and a string of tubulars in use on said offshore drilling structure along said rails alters the lateral separation between said first tubular assembly and said primary load path allowing a second tubular assembly to be advanced along said primary load path.

6. (Original) The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said drilling structure is a semi-submersible drill rig.
7. (Original) The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said cart comprises a substantially rectangular base having an opening therethrough and wherein a side of said cart contains a passageway through which a length of pipe can be inserted into said opening.
8. (Original) The offshore drilling structure of Claim 7, wherein said opening is substantially funnel-shaped.
9. (Original) The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said cart can carry a load greater than 100 mega-tons.
10. (Currently Amended) The offshore drilling structure of Claim 5, wherein said first deck further includes more than one drilling station operative for conducting drilling activities along said primary load path, wherein a first drilling station comprises [[further comprising]] a first hoist, which is associated with a first load path and a first rotary table, and a second drilling station comprises a second hoist, which is associated with a second load path and a second rotary table.

11. (Currently Amended) A method [[of]] for conducting drilling operations [[a borehole]] from an offshore structure having a working area suspended above the surface of a body of water, said method comprising the steps of:

[[building]] advancing a first string of tubulars tubular assembly into said body of water from a first deck of said working area along a primary load path, ~~at a first rotary table~~, ~~that will be used in a drilling a borehole~~, wherein said first tubular assembly comprises a blow-out protector (BOP) attached to a string of marine riser pipe, and wherein said primary load path extends through an open moonpool area formed in a second deck of said working area to the seabed string of tubulars extending through a moonpool that provides access to an underwater site;

suspending a portion of said first [[string of tubulars]] tubular assembly from a cart that straddles said moonpool area, said cart including means for translating along a rail assembly attached to said second deck;

moving said portion of said first [[string of tubulars]] tubular assembly [[laterally]] along said rail assembly to laterally separate [[obtain lateral separation between]] said first [[string of tubulars and]] tubular assembly from a second string of tubulars that is in use on said offshore structure tubular assembly extending from said first deck of said working area to the seabed along said primary load path.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, ~~further comprising building said first string of tubulars to include marine risers and~~ wherein said first tubular assembly comprises a blow-out protector (BOP) attached to a string of marine riser pipe.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, ~~further comprising building said second string of tubulars to include wherein said second tubular assembly comprises~~ a Xmas tree assembly.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said offshore structure is a semi-submersible rig.

15. (New) The device of Claim 1, wherein said first tubular assembly comprises a blow-out protector (BOP) attached to a string of marine riser pipe.